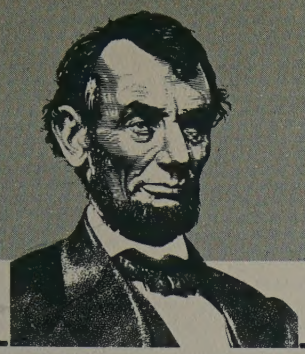


Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1449 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA November, 1958

THE LINCOLN CABIN ON BOSTON COMMON

Crowds of visitors thronged the parade ground at the south end of the Boston Common during the midsummer of 1865 to marvel at the humble cabin home of the late President Abraham Lincoln. Paying an admission fee of 25 cents (children 10 cents) distinguished visitors including General U. S. Grant and Staff, His Honor the Mayor of Boston, the Marquis of Drogheda and Lady, Hon. Charles Sumner, the editor of daily and weekly newspapers and others witnessed his historic exhibit.

Those who paid the admission fee saw a cabin of wonderful construction whose dimensions were 18 feet by 16 feet, and 9 logs or about 8 feet high. The peaked roof, at the highest point was about five feet from the level of its eaves. This was Lincoln's fourth cabin home, originally located in Macon County, Illinois. In writing an autobiographical sketch for John Locke Scripps in 1860 Lincoln gave its precise original location: "A new place on the north side of the Sangamon River, at the junction of the timberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur." John Hanks in a statement made for William H. Herndon was even more explicit regarding the location of the Lincoln cabin home: "He (Thomas) then built ten miles west of Decatur, and about a hundred steps from the N. F. of Sangamon River and on the north side of it on a kind of bluff. The house, the logs of it, I cut myself in 1829 and gave them to old man Lincoln. The house set east and west, fronted south, chimney at west end. . . ."

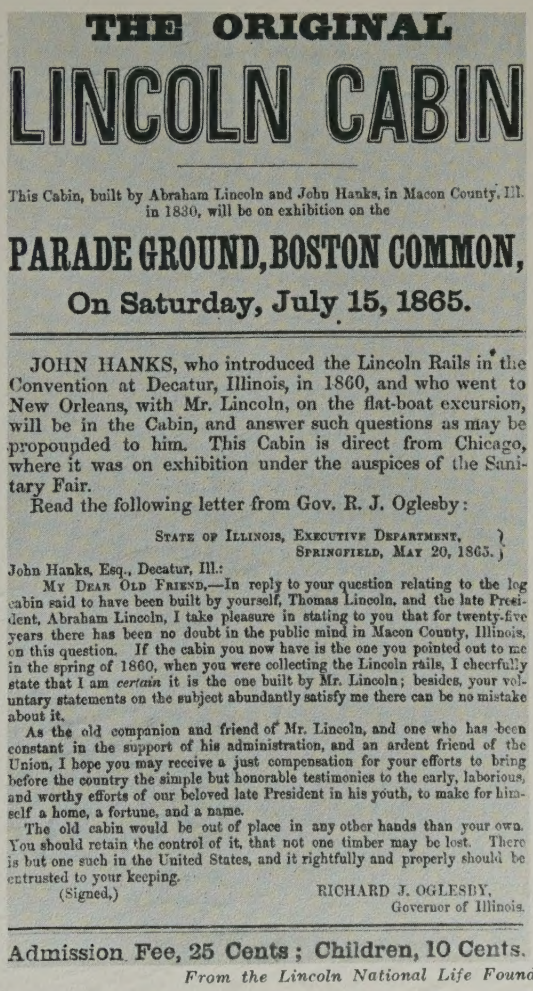
This cabin was Lincoln's home from April 1830 to July 1831, a period embracing the "winter of the deep snow." One authority stated that the cabin was begun on March 30, 1830 and that "four days were spent in building it." The cabin was erected by Thomas Lincoln, with the able assistance of his son Abraham and relatives and inlaws who constituted the Lincoln-Hanks-Johnston-Hall clan.

The admission paying visitors to the Lincoln exhibit on Boston Common were told of the history of the cabin following the martyrdom of the Sixteenth President. They were informed that two enterprising citizens of Decatur, Illinois, James Shoaff and John Hanks purchased the log cabin from James Whitley. Meanwhile they secured certified statements from the original owner along with those of Governor Oglesby and Colonel Pugh attesting that the cabin was the identical one in which the late president had resided. The cabin was generally recognized as the home of Thomas Lincoln although it had been unoccupied for many years except for a period of several weeks in 1860 when it was used for a schoolhouse.

The next step was to dismantle the cabin for shipment. Shoaff carefully marked the hand-hewn logs and they were shipped to Chicago along with the wooden chimney and shingle roof. Some of the original logs were decayed and these were replaced by logs from John Hanks' log barn. Shoaff accompanied the exhibit to both Chicago and Boston and he appears to have been active in the erection and management of the exhibit. Apparently he let John and Dennis Hanks deal with the public. Souvenir canes "made from rails that Lincoln split" were sold by John Hanks to those who wished to acquire a memento of Lincoln's Illinois years. The Chicago exhibition extended from June 1 through the 24.

The Chicago *Tribune* in its issue of May 29, 1865 carried a reference to the cabin exhibit when it was in that city: "The identical log cabin, built by Lincoln and John and Dennis Hanks, in the days of their rail-splitting, about twelve miles west of Decatur, Macon County, Ill., has been brought to this city for exhibition during the Fair, and will be placed on the corner of Randolph street and Wabash avenue. It will be open to inspection tomorrow. The Messr. Hanks will be in attendance and give interesting items of their experience with Lincoln in the days—'Auld Lang Syne.'"

The authenticity of the exhibit was attested (see broadside illustration) by Governor Richard J. Oglesby in a letter dated May 20, 1865 which was incorporated in the *Tribune* article. Governor Oglesby visited the exhibit on the corner of Randolph Street and Wa-



THE ORIGINAL

LINCOLN CABIN

This Cabin, built by Abraham Lincoln and John Hanks, in Macon County, Ill. in 1830, will be on exhibition on the

PARADE GROUND, BOSTON COMMON,

On Saturday, July 15, 1865.

JOHN HANKS, who introduced the Lincoln Rails in the Convention at Decatur, Illinois, in 1860, and who went to New Orleans, with Mr. Lincoln, on the flat-boat excursion, will be in the Cabin, and answer such questions as may be propounded to him. This Cabin is direct from Chicago, where it was on exhibition under the auspices of the Sanitary Fair.

Read the following letter from Gov. R. J. Oglesby:

STATE OF ILLINOIS, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
SPRINGFIELD, MAY 20, 1865.

John Hanks, Esq., Decatur, Ill.:

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND,—In reply to your question relating to the log cabin said to have been built by yourself, Thomas Lincoln, and the late President, Abraham Lincoln, I take pleasure in stating to you that for twenty-five years there has been no doubt in the public mind in Macon County, Illinois, on this question. If the cabin you now have is the one you pointed out to me in the spring of 1860, when you were collecting the Lincoln rails, I cheerfully state that I am *certain* it is the one built by Mr. Lincoln; besides, your voluntary statements on the subject abundantly satisfy me there can be no mistake about it.

As the old companion and friend of Mr. Lincoln, and one who has been constant in the support of his administration, and an ardent friend of the Union, I hope you may receive a just compensation for your efforts to bring before the country the simple but honorable testimonies to the early, laborious, and worthy efforts of our beloved late President in his youth, to make for himself a home, a fortune, and a name.

The old cabin would be out of place in any other hands than your own. You should retain the control of it, that not one timber may be lost. There is but one such in the United States, and it rightfully and properly should be entrusted to your keeping.

(Signed,) RICHARD J. OGLESBY,
Governor of Illinois.

Admission Fee, 25 Cents; Children, 10 Cents.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Broadside circulated in Boston by Shoaff and Hanks announcing the opening date of the log cabin exhibit.

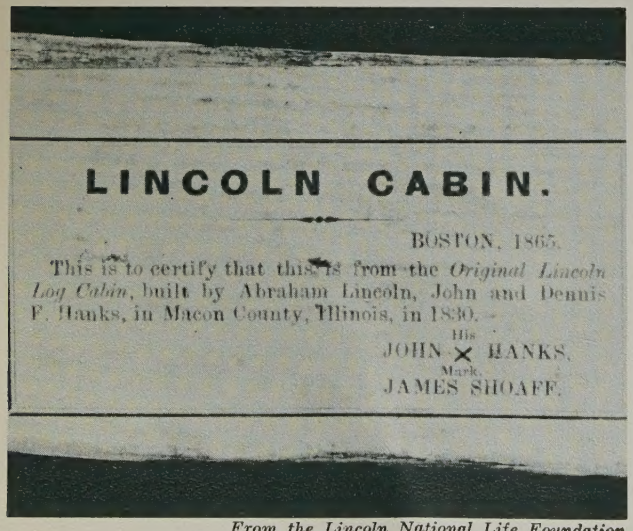
From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The reverse side of the carte-de-visite photographs bears the following printed inscription: The Old Log Cabin. President Lincoln's First Home in Illinois. This cabin was built in 1830, upon the banks of the Sangamon River, in Macon County, Illinois, by Abraham Lincoln, and the Messrs. Hanks, who are cousins to Mr. Lincoln, and who appear in front of the cabin; Mr. John Hanks, upon the right, assisted in the construction of the "Lincoln Flat Boat," and in company with Lincoln, took the famous trip to New Orleans. Mr. Dennis F. Hanks, who appears upon the left, taught Mr. Lincoln his alphabet and gave him his first lessons in reading and writing, 45 years ago. Mr. Hanks is now about 67 years of age.

Photographed at the great Sanitary Fair, Chicago, June 8th, 1865. Published and for sale, at wholesale and retail, by J. L. CAMPBELL, P. O. Box 3179, Chicago, Illinois.

bash Avenue in Chicago shortly after it was opened to the public and when he entered its enclosure he shook the hand of John Hanks and exclaimed, "Well, John, this is certainly the identical Lincoln cabin. I have been in it many years ago. My feelings are sad. I realize where I am."

Messrs. Shoaff and Hanks invited Dennis Hanks to join them at their exhibition in Chicago. Dennis accepted the invitation and took with him a razor bearing the name of "Clark & Ham", which was then about seventy years old, and had been presented to him by the late Thomas Lincoln. The razor was described as being "in a remarkable state of preservation, in excellent plight" but considerably worn at the "heel". This relic was placed in "a proper niche" in the cabin. While Dennis regaled his visitors with Lincoln stories, John was the official


LINCOLN CABIN.
BOSTON, 1865.
This is to certify that this is from the Original Lincoln Log Cabin, built by Abraham Lincoln, John and Dennis F. Hanks, in Macon County, Illinois, in 1830.
His
JOHN ✕ HANKS.
Mark.
JAMES SHOAFF.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A piece of the original (Macon County, Illinois) Lincoln cabin sold as a souvenir by John Hanks and James Shoaff.

lecturer. The June 3, 1865 issue of *The Voice of The Fair*, the fair's own publication, stated that the "Messrs. Hanks are old companions of Mr. Lincoln . . . and answer all questions pertaining to the cabin and the history of our late President."

Once the exhibit was erected in Chicago a photograph of the cabin was made on June 8, 1865. It was made available for sale, at wholesale and retail prices, by J. L. Campbell, P. O. Box 3179, Chicago, Illinois. To control the sale and the distribution of the photograph it was copyrighted. The photograph bore the title "President Lincoln's first home in Illinois" and Dennis and John Hanks were shown standing in the foreground. This is

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A photograph of an engraved print of the Macon County cabin with the image of Dennis Hanks deleted. In his place stands James Shoaff, whom it is claimed, impersonated Abraham Lincoln.

likely the only photograph of the cabin that was ever made. It is believed that the promoters seeking to increase sales saw the need of projecting Lincoln into the photograph. They are said to have deleted the image of Dennis Hanks and substituted James Shoaff dressed as the president in a long black coat with a stovepipe hat. The composite photograph or engraving evidently enjoyed a steady sale.

With the close of the Chicago Fair the exhibit was moved to Boston, Massachusetts. Such an exhibition had to be approved by the Board of Aldermen and a permit was issued to John Hanks on July 10, 1865. Perhaps the claim that "Half of the net proceeds will be devoted to the erection of a monument to the memory of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham" was a sufficient reason to secure the permit. Half of the receipts secured in Chicago were earmarked for the benefit of the Sanitary Fair.

Next a broadside was circulated stating that the exhibit would be open to the public on July 15, 1865. This was followed by news articles which appeared in the Boston press. The Boston press was not adverse to publicizing the unique Lincoln exhibit and *The Liberator* stated that "The original Lincoln cabin which he helped to build in Macon County, Illinois, in 1830, is to be exhibited on Boston Common. The identity of the structure is fully established. It was exhibited at the recent Sanitary Fair in Chicago, and was visited by thousands".

According to the Boston *Transcript* dated June 15 "the most interesting of all the objects at the Northwestern Sanitary Fair 'was the log cabin' which he (Lincoln) helped to build with his own hands in the days of his youth and poverty."

There is no doubt that the cabin was visited by thousands of people who were intrigued with Dennis' frontier yarns and John's quaint lectures. Then, too, they were quite active in the promotion of the sale of relics and photographs. Business in connection with the sale of the souvenir canes was said to have been so good that John Hanks sent to Illinois for more Lincoln rails from which to make them. In fact, one reporter stated that "Mr. (John) Hanks" was "no less interesting than the cabin."

The *Advertiser* of July 29 went to some lengths to

report on the exhibit: "The Marquis of Drogheda and his lady, who are in this city, stopping at the Tremont House, paid a visit last evening to the "Lincoln Cabin," which is now on exhibition on the Common. They spent some time in the examination of this now sacred relic; and, while purchasing some articles made from the wood of the cabin, her ladyship remarked: 'I wish very much to take home these to show our people; for my husband is one of those in our country who admired President Lincoln's character.'

"On taking their leave the Marquis and his lady shook hands in a very cordial manner with Uncle John Hanks, who helped build, and now owns and exhibits the cabin, and said to him: 'We are very happy indeed to take the hand of the old friend and companion of Mr. Lincoln.'

"Although persons of high rank and large fortune, they came and went in a quiet, democratic way, and 'Uncle John' was not aware, until after departure that he had been entertaining the English nobility in the humble log cabin which he helped young Abe Lincoln the rail splitter build over thirty-five years ago. But such was the case. The distinguished visitors, however, honored themselves no less than the humble cabin by the respect which they thus unostentatiously paid to our martyred President's memory."

The Lincoln cabin was exhibited in Boston for a period of about two months, from July 15 to September 9, 1865. During the latter part of this period a second circular was issued to interest the public in the exhibition. The history of the cabin thereafter is quite vague. Here and there a reference is found concerning the exhibition of the cabin at Barnum's Museum in New York City, from September 18 until the latter part of October when the exhibit was changed.

Barnum opened a new museum saloon in New York City on September 18 and along with glass blowers, giants, a fat woman and other bizarre attractions exhibited the Lincoln cabin. The advertisement stated that "A sixth saloon has just been added in which is exhibited the IDENTICAL LINCOLN LOG CABIN built by Abraham Lincoln in Macon County, Illinois, in 1830, and in which he resided for two years".

Not to be outdone by other promoters Barnum secured a letter of Governor Andrew of Massachusetts, along with letters of other distinguisher personages attesting to the authenticity of the relic. These were exhibited along with the letter of the Governor of Illinois. According to the Barnum advertisement John Hanks was to be on hand to answer all questions.

On October 30 the recorded history of the Lincoln cabin comes to an abrupt end. Otto R. Kyle in his recent book "Abraham Lincoln In Decatur", Vantage Press, New York, N. Y., devoted a chapter to this topic and he attempted to discover the whereabouts of the cabin by tracing the movements of John Hanks through early Decatur newspapers. The Decatur *State Chronicle* in early November, 1865, stated: "The Lincoln cabin is now on exhibition in New York, and will shortly be taken to Philadelphia, after which it is the purpose of the proprietors to exhibit it in Europe. John Hanks left for the east yesterday, and will accompany the cabin to Europe. As the early companion of Mr. Lincoln he will form an interesting feature of the exhibition".

Mr. Kyle failed to find any newspaper references about the cabin being exhibited in Philadelphia. Neither did John Hanks go to Europe, although Governor Oglesby wrote him a farewell letter wishing him a safe journey. Oglesby apparently was quite concerned about the final disposition of the cabin. He closed his letter to Hanks with the admonition that he return the cabin to the site of its origin.

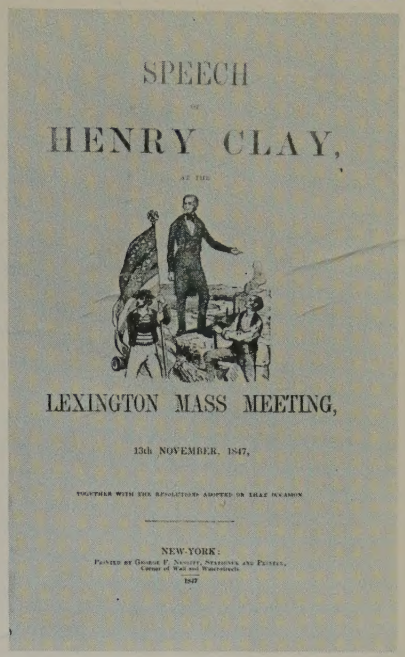
Unconfirmed reports relate that the cabin was finally sold to an English syndicate and was lost at sea while enroute to England.

The struggle of today, . . .

"The struggle of today, is not altogether for today—it is for a vast future also. With a reliance on Providence, all the more firm and earnest, let us proceed in the great task which events have devolved upon us."

Lincoln's Annual Message to Congress. December 3, 1861.

HENRY CLAY'S ADDRESS



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Title page of the gold ink edition.

On November 13, 1847, Abraham Lincoln is believed to have heard Henry Clay deliver a speech on the conduct of the Mexican War at the Market House in Lexington, Kentucky.

Congressman-Elect Lincoln was visiting his wife's relatives and being an ardent admirer of Henry Clay he undoubtedly attended the meeting. Clay presented a gloomy national political outlook. He denounced the unnatural and lamentable Mexican War as a conflict of pestilence, of famine and a sacrifice of life and a waste of human treasure. "It is Mexico that is defending her firesides, her castles and her altars, not we." Clay suggested that "all hearts and heads should unite in the patriotic endeavor to bring it to a satisfactory close."

This address made such an indelible impression upon the mind of the freshman Congressman that it affected Lincoln's subsequent career. Lincoln hewed to the Whig party line which vigorously opposed "Polk's War". This might have been smart politics from a national point of view but it did not help Lincoln politically in his Seventh Illinois Congressional District.

Clay's speech made national news. Its release to the press was a journalistic achievement made possible by the telegraph. An abstract of the address was expressed to Cincinnati, and thence telegraphed to the *New York Herald*. The effort cost $500. In 1847 this feat was considered an instance of great enterprise as there were then only three thousand miles of telegraph wire in the United States.

The speech was published in full for general distribution, but at the same time a deluxe edition was printed in gold ink. The fourteen page pamphlet, had inserted between its beautifully printed sheets protective pieces of blank paper. The Foundation copy is appropriately bound and boxed to provide adequate protection. No information is available regarding the number of regular and gold ink copies that were printed. Only one other copy of the gold ink edition is now known to be extant.

"It used to be considered, during the presidential canvass, that McClellan was the favorite with the fair sex; but the manner in which they flocked after Mr. Lincoln on Saturday (Inauguration Day, March 4, 1865) showed that they are as fickle in their political likings as in everything else. If a thing of beauty be a joy forever, certainly a thing of so many beauties as the inauguration must live forever."

New York *Herald*
Monday, March 6, 1865

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1958

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Wayne C. Temple, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill.; William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Jr., Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

BRADLEY, CHESTER R. 1958-22

Chester D. Bradley/President Lincoln's Campaign/Against the Merrimac/Reprinted from the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society,/Spring 1958, Vol. LI, No. 1/(Caption title).

Pamphlet, paper 6¼"x9½", 59-85 pp., illus.

HALBERT, SHERRILL 1958-23

The Suspension of the/Writ of Habeas Corpus/by President Lincoln/(Lincoln profile)/by/Sherrill Halbert/From Volume 2 Number 2/The American Journal of Legal History/April, 1958.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 6"x9", 95-116 pp.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY 1958-24

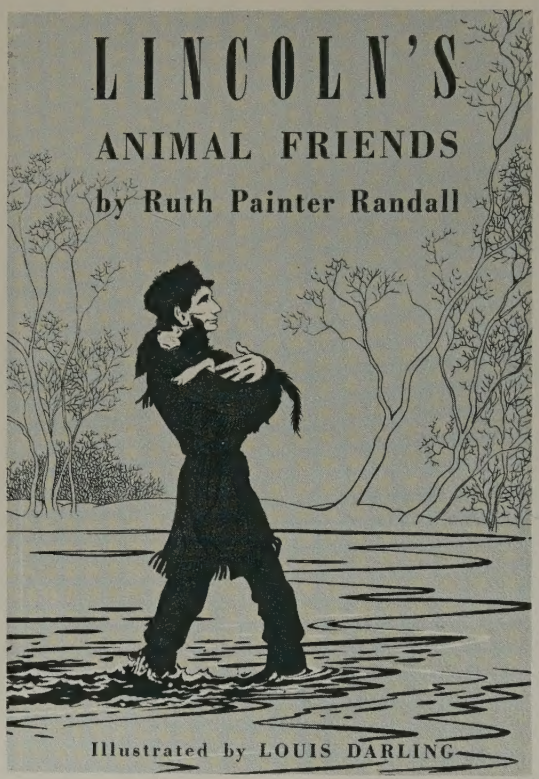
Lincoln Memorial University Press/Spring 1958/Vol. 60, No. 1/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American Education.

Pamphlet, flexible boards 7"x10", 40 pp., illus.

RANDALL, RUTH PAINTER 1958-25

Lincoln's/Animal/Friends/by Ruth Painter Randall/(sketch of covered wagon enroute)/Incidents about Abraham Lincoln and animals,/woven into an intimate story of his life/Illustrated by Louis Darling/Little, Brown and Company/Boston. Toronto.

Book, cloth, 6"x8¾", 152 pp., illus., price $3.00.



MILLER, STEPHEN FRANKS 1958-26

Ahab Lincoln:/A Tragedy of the Potomac/by/Stephen Franks Miller/With an Introduction by/Richard Harwell/Chicago: The Civil War Round Table: 1958.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 5½"x8½", 21 pp.

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The Great Debates/1858-1958.

Folder, paper, 6"x8½", (4) pp., illustrated folder.

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Indiana Lincoln Foundation/(outline of Indiana centered with head of Lincoln)/Dedicated to the Preservation/of the American Way/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾"x8¼", (4) pp. Descriptive folder relative to: Indiana Lincoln Foundation, 750 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, 4, Indiana.

MUELDER, HERMANN R. 1958-29

(Sketch of doorway)/Why Galesburg/and Knox College/Were on/Lincoln's Side/Background of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate/October 7, 1958/by Hermann R. Muelder/Professor of History, Knox College/Published by Knox College/Galesburg, Illinois/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾"x8½", 5 pp.

SPRINGFIELD (ILL.) HISTORICAL MONUMENT COMMISSION 1958-30

Lincoln's Farewell to Springfield, Feb. 11, 1861/Springfield/Abraham Lincoln's/Home Town/(Cover title).

Folder, paper 3¾"x8½", (4) pp., illus. Describes 7 points of interest in city of Springfield.

TISLER, C. C. & TISLER, ALEITA G. 1958-31

Lincoln/Was/Here/for another Go at Douglas/by/C. C. Tisler and Aleita G. Tisler/Ottawa, Illinois/McCowat-Mercer Press, Inc.—Jackson, Tennessee/1958.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 6"x9¼", 60 pp., price $1.60.

DUNCAN, KUNIGUNDE 1958-32

Lincoln's Teacher/A Biography by/Kunigunde Duncan/(device)/Advance Publishing Company, Inc./Great Barrington, Mass.

Book, cloth, 5½"x8¼", xi p., 178 pp., illus., price $3.50.

WALTON, CLYDE C. 1958-33

Abraham Lincoln's/"House Divided" Address/Delivered in Springfield, before the/Illinois State Republican Convention,/June 15, 1858./A reproduction of the exceedingly rare first/separate printing, from the copy in the/Illinois State Historical Library./With an Introduction by/Clyde C. Walton/. . . /Illinois State Historical Society/Springfield, Illinois/1958.

Pamphlet, paper, 6"x9", 8, 16 pp.

NEYHART, LOUISE A. 1958-34

Henry's/Lincoln/By Louise A. Neyhart/(sketch of two hats)/Illustrated by Charles Banks Wilson/Holiday House/New York.

Brochure, cloth, 7"x9½", 49 pp., illus., price $2.50. Reprint of 1945 edition.

CRAWFORD, PAUL 1958-35

The Lincoln-Douglas Debate/at Freeport, Illinois/August 27, 1958/An Introduction to its Commemoration and Re-appraisal/Paul Crawford,/. . ./Published by Northern Illinois University in cooperation with the Lincoln-Douglas Society of Freeport, Illinois in connection with the Centennial Commemoration of an historic debate/Printed by the State of Illinois, 1958/William G. Stratton, Governor.

Book, flexible boards, 6" x 9", 83 pp., fr., ill.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS SOCIETY, THE 1958-36

Freeport (Illinois) Debate Centennial.

Book, flexible boards, 7½" x 10", 104 pp., ill. Published by The Lincoln-Douglas Society, 113-115 West Stephenson, Freeport, Illinois. Guide book for all events and exhibits commemorating The Lincoln-Douglas Freeport Debate Centennial.

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Lincoln Lore/Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation/Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor/Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne/Indiana/Number 1445 July, 1958—Number 1448 October, 1958/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 8½" x 11", 4 pp., illus. Number 1445, The Rail-Splitter . . .; 1446, "The President's Proclamations . . . in earnest or mere bug-a-boos" . . .; 1447, The Cabinet Crisis of December 1862; 1448, Wheeler's Recollections of Lincoln. . . .